

# Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia



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Greetings Sir Knights,

In the heart of August, a sense of anticipation permeates the air as the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia prepares to embark on a historic journey to Salt Lake City, Utah. The Triennial Session for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar beckons, promising a gathering of noble minds and valiant hearts from across the nation. For the Knights of Virginia, this pilgrimage holds profound significance, as they gear up to compete and showcase their unwavering dedication to chivalry, honor, and fraternity which is only forged through the crucible of Drill.

This august group is composed of veterans and new Sir Knights alike. The criteria for these Sir Knights was simple: a willingness to not only show up and learn the Drill, but to dedicate all efforts on bringing home the trophy and placing the team above one's self. From across the Commonwealth, they set forth on a pilgrimage to test their metal and join the ranks of our beloved Drill Corps and did so through competition with each other and themselves. Charles Barbee, our esteemed Captain, Joe Matthews, Jeff Paras, Joe Broce, Chris Stevens, Jeremy Utt, Dakota Burton, William Crosscup, Freddy Barnett, Richard Bateman, and Cole David. Not to forget of course without the wise council of their mentor and team advisor, Sir Knight William Reinhold, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander and Right Eminent Past Department Commander, their efforts would be in vain.

Their journey begins not merely with a physical voyage but with a spiritual and mental preparation that embodies the essence of Knighthood. Months of rigorous training, meticulous planning, and fervent prayers have forged a bond among the brethren, strengthening their resolve to uphold the timeless virtues of the Templar order. Clad in their distinctive regalia, adorned with symbols of faith and valor, they stand as beacons of light in a world yearning for righteousness.

As the sun rises on the day of departure, the Grand Commandery of Virginia sets forth with solemn purpose and undaunted courage. Their path is guided by the echoes of ancient rituals and the legacy of those who came before them, igniting a flame of determination that burns brightly in their hearts. Alongside fellow Knights from sister jurisdictions, they journey across vast landscapes, traversing mountains, valleys, and rivers, united in their quest for excellence.

The competition will undoubtedly commence with an aura of anticipation, as the best and brightest of the Templar order showcase their skills in a series of trials designed to test their mettle. From ceremonial precision to tactical prowess, will the Knights of Virginia leave an indelible mark, earning admiration and respect from their peers? That remains to be seen. Yet, beyond the quest for victory lies a deeper purpose – to uphold the sacred traditions of Knighthood and honor the legacy of Virginia Drill Teams of the past.

Though the outcome of the competition may be uncertain, their commitment to the ideals of Templar Knighthood remains unwavering. For in the end, it is not the laurels of victory that define them but the steadfastness of their faith, the purity of their hearts, and the unity of their brotherhood that truly set them apart.

Courteously,

S. K. D. Cole David, KCT  
Drill Committee Chairman, 2024-2025